

I have a few concerns about the bill. First, I am concerned that the bill will require colleges and universities to comply with additional federal "red tape." I understand that Representative McKEON plans to offer an amendment to study the regulatory burden on colleges and universities and ways to reduce it.

Also, I have concerns about the college cost provisions. While the provisions have certainly improved over the past several years, I question whether the federal government should intervene in the way colleges and universities set their tuition, particularly at relatively low-cost community colleges. For example, it is my understanding that Grand Rapids Community College, located in my congressional district, may be subjected to the bill's requirements of the Quality Efficiency Task Force. Unfortunately, the bill fails to take into account state and local factors, such as last year's failed millage attempts, which, in turn, necessitated the tuition increases at this community college. It is situations like this that should be considered when reviewing attempts to control rising college costs.

Finally, I have concerns with the bill's maintenance of effort requirements for state funding. I appreciate Representative KILDEE and WALBERG's efforts to include a waiver for States facing difficult economic times, such as Michigan.

On balance, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act is a good bill, and I urge Members to support it.

PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007 EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 5104. However, I believe that passing a long-term extension of the Protect America Act is not the answer. Instead, we must update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in a way that will enhance our national security while at the same time protecting the privacy of United States citizens. As such, it is my hope that this extension will give us time to responsibly modernize the FISA law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in ensuring that these dual aims are accomplished.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANTONIO DIMORA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Antonio Dimora, a beloved father and doting grandfather, and to honor his commitment to his Northeast Ohio community.

Antonio was born in Sicily in 1932 and immigrated to the United States in 1950, settling in a succession of Cleveland area communities. He was an avid outdoorsman, worked

for Republic Steel and Buckeye Forge, and served as the Union Steward in the United Steelworkers of America. Later in life, Antonio devoted his time to volunteer work with the American Association of Retired Persons and Church of the Holy Angels in Bainbridge, Ohio.

Antonio's greatest joy in life was spending time with his wife, Mary Elizabeth; his four children, James, Ann Marie Miker, Theresa Agostino, and Diane Pieronek; and his nine grandchildren. He never forgot Italy, and enjoyed every opportunity to celebrate his Italian heritage.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Antonio Dimora, whose tireless work for the labor cause and deep affection for his family and community will be remembered by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Dimora family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PARADISE VALLEY POLICE CHIEF JOHN WINTERSTEEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Paradise Valley Police Chief John Wintersteen for the many years he has given to his community and to our country. Chief Wintersteen is retiring after thirteen years at the helm of his department, a span that has encompassed tremendous growth and innovation in the town's public safety programs. His tenure in Paradise Valley has earned him the respect and love of that community.

Chief Wintersteen's distinguished service began long before he joined the Paradise Valley Police Department. He served honorably for nearly 29 years in the United States Marine Corps, overseeing police and security operations at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Wintersteen was instrumental in overseeing the town's fire and emergency medical service transition from the private Rural/Metro Fire Department to Phoenix Fire Department. He was also involved in the expansion of the Police Department's photo-enforcement program—which was the first in the Nation—and the introduction of public-awareness programs.

Chief Wintersteen is just as dedicated to the community in his private life as he was while wearing a badge. He volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Sierra Club, American Red Cross and Special Olympics, among others.

I would like to wish Chief Wintersteen all the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. I am confident that Paradise Valley will continue to benefit from his knowledge, leadership and dedication to the community he calls home. I say congratulations on a job well done.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 12, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,804 days since the tragic judicial fiat called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,804